Docket: 14484

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor:	Michael R. Klardie		
Appln. No.:	10/099,930		
Filing Date:	March 13, 2002	Examiner:	Not Yet Known
Title:	**IMPRESSION CAP**	Group Art Unit:	3732

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box **MISSING PARTS**
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

I hereby certify that this document is being sent via U.S. First Class Mail addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 5 day of September, 2002.

KrisAnne Popovits

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is filed under Rule 1.115(b)(1), prior to the first Office Action on the merits.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the description of figure 8A to read as follows:

"FIG. 8A is a perspective view of an impression cap;"

Please amend the description of figure 24 to read as follows:

"FIG. 24 is a detailed cut-away view showing a partial cross-section of a portion of FIG. 20, as indicated;"

Please amend the description of figure 24A to read as follows:

"FIG. 24A is an exaggerated cut-away view showing a partial cross-section of an alternative embodiment of the impression cap;"

Please amend the description of figure 27 to read as follows:

"FIG. 27 is side view of the alternative embodiment of the impression cap shown in FIG. 25;"

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 30 to read as follows:

"Anti-rotation is further provided by one or more flat surfaces 78, which are formed in retention ribs 64 and 66. Flat surfaces 78 within the retention geometry are aligned with internal flat 80 (shown in figure 9). This allows the flat surfaces 78 to be an indicator of the internal flat's 80 location. The flat surfaces can better be seen in figure 8A."

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 23 to read as follows:

"An additional individual feature may also be seen in this figure. In this embodiment, instead of the surface 98 of the abutment flat 80 being parallel with, or slightly angling away from, the center line 126, as shown in the other embodiments, a portion of the surface 98 angles toward the center line 126 forming a bulge 128. An exaggerated view of bulge 128 may be seen in figure 24a. The bulge 128 may be positioned at other places along the surface 98. In the embodiment shown, the bulge 128 is positioned on the lower part of the flat 80. Eventually, the surface 98 angles back away 130 from the center line 126. This bulge 128 or extension inward provides an alternative or additional press fit mechanism that provides an increase in rotational and vertical stability. The feature 128 also accounts for manufacturing tolerance by compressing the bulge 128 against the flat 80. It removes the necessity of having an exact fit between the internal geometry of the impression cap and the outer geometry of the abutment piece and the circumferential flange 44 and the collar 16 of the implant 10."

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is submitted prior to the first Office Action on the merits, to supplement the description of several of the figures. The amendments correspond to amendments made to the drawings in response to the objection to the drawings issued in the notice to file missing parts mailed on May 8, 2002. The amendments are fully supported by the specification and drawings, as originally filed, and thus do not constitute new matter. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Marked-up Version Showing Changes**."

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 9-5-2002

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MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Description of figure 8A:

FIG. 8A [8a] is a perspective view of an impression cap;

Description of figure 24:

FIG. 24 is a detailed cut-away view showing a partial cross-section of a portion of FIG. 20, as indicated [an alternative embodiment of the impression cap];

Description of figure 24A:

FIG. 24A [24a] is an exaggerated cut-away view showing a partial cross-section of an alternative embodiment of the impression cap;

Description of figure 27:

FIG. 27 is side view of the alternative embodiment of the impression cap shown in FIG. 25;

Paragraph beginning at page 8, line 30:

Anti-rotation is further provided by one or more flat surfaces 78, which are formed in retention ribs 64 and 66. Flat surfaces 78 within the retention geometry are aligned with internal flat 80 (shown in figure 9). This allows the flat surfaces 78 to be an indicator of the internal flat's 80 location. The flat surfaces can better be seen in figure 8A [8a].

Paragraph beginning at page 12, line 23:

An additional individual feature may also be seen in this figure. In this embodiment, instead of the surface 98 of the abutment flat 80 being parallel with, or slightly angling away from, the center line 126, as shown in the other embodiments, a portion of the surface 98 angles toward the center line 126 forming a bulge 128. An exaggerated view of bulge 128 may be seen in figure 24A [24a]. The bulge 128 may be positioned at other places along the surface 98. In the embodiment shown, the bulge 128 is positioned on the lower part of the flat 80. Eventually, the surface 98 angles back away 130 from the center line 126. This bulge 128 or extension inward provides an alternative or additional press fit mechanism that provides an increase in rotational and vertical stability. The feature 128 also accounts for manufacturing tolerance by compressing the bulge 128 against the flat 80. It removes the necessity of having an exact fit between the internal geometry of the impression cap and the outer geometry of the abutment piece and the circumferential flange 44 and the collar 16 of the implant 10.